

From: earendil@chicagonet.net@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/26/01 4:17pm
Subject: proposed settlement of microsoft antitrust case

As a long time computer user, I would like to respectfully register my dissatisfaction with the proposed settlement of the antitrust case brought against the Microsoft Corporation. It is my understanding that the Court has determined that Microsoft has indeed illegally maintained a monopoly. It is my belief that any settlement that has the public interest at heart will require Microsoft to open its networking and file format protocols.

At this stage in the development of our country, it would be retrograde to allow one corporation to dictate the manner in which ideas are to be exchanged. Moreover, to allow the continuance of a one company monopoly in such a crucial field as information exchange and technology would be detrimental to the economic well being of the country because it would allow Microsoft to continue to impose its inefficiencies on the public as a whole. Opening the market to choice in this regard would be of significant benefit to our economy.

Finally, Microsoft has repeatedly exhibited a totally irresponsible disregard for security in its software products, most recently by releasing on an unsuspecting public, even while its harmful practices are scrutiny by the Court, a seriously flawed operating system: Windows XP. The wide publicity that has attended this arrogant and irresponsible act (including an FBI warning regarding XP's serious security flaws) speaks volumes regarding Microsoft corporate philosophy. At a time when the US is increasingly under threat of terrorist act, we can no longer afford to allow Microsoft to operate an illegal monopoly that exposes our whole information infrastructure to devastating attacks. The only solution is to require Microsoft to open its proprietary formats and protocols to allow creative Americans to forge solutions that will be conducive to the free and secure exchange of ideas and information.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that you carefully rethink the proposed settlement in order to provide a more constructive and secure basis for the future of information technology in America.

Thank you,

Mark Wauck